

TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving our water

June 2006 Volume 175

TOOFAR Inc

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow TOOFAR members,

Summer Office Hours
Mon—Thurs 10-3

Meeting Notices

TOOFAR General Meeting
Thurs. June 22 at 7pm

East Citrus Community Center
Hwy 44, East of Inverness

**No speaker this month. We will
have updates on issues from
the past year.**

TOOFAR Board Meeting

Thurs July 6th at 6pm
TOOFAR office

**Cirtus County Tsala Apopka
Chain of Lakes Task Force**

June 12, 3pm
Lecanto Government Offices

Withlacoochee Basin Board

June 15 9am
Brooksville

SWFWMD Governing Board

June 27 & 28 9am
Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners

County Courthouse
June 6 & 20 at 1pm

Sumter County Commissioners

June 13 and 27
at the Commissioners Office
and
June 20 at Laurel Manor
In the Villages

Some interesting reading in February's Southeast Farm Press. Professor Robert Glennon from the University of Arizona spoke at the recent Intelligent Use of Water Summit in Pasadena, Calif. Here are some random quotes! This country's use of underground water resources has created "an environmental catastrophe," and "significant reform," is necessary to prevent further degradation of rivers, streams, lakes wetlands, and estuaries. He goes on to say, under the doctrine of "reasonable use," a landowner may pump as much water as desired, which in many areas has resulted in over-mining groundwater resources.

Florida, one of the wettest states in the nation, with an average of over 54 inches of rainfall annually, extremely high water tables, enormous aquifers, and surrounded on three sides by ocean, has seen enormous increases in groundwater withdrawal, with a drying-up of many lakes and ponds. Even the bottled water craze has had an impact on groundwater, Glennon noted, with millions of gallons being pumped from underground springs that, in many cases, are critical to the health of streams, lakes, and rivers.

Reform needed

There is urgent need for reform of legal rules governing groundwater, he says, noting that current laws "encourage exploitation of the resource...by permitting the pumping of enormous quantities, regardless of the impact." Though local governments, states should use financial incentives as a significant part of water policy. "Quite simply, we are not paying the true cost of water... Our habits of water use will not change until the cost rises sufficiently to force an alteration. We must increase water rates so all users pay the replacement value of the water...."

So it appears perhaps some folks are starting to understand that we are in a very similar situation to our present fossil fuel dependency. But, we can live without gas, etc. but not without WATER.

Be safe, be happy, life is short
Marco

You can receive your newsletter by email or you can read it on our website,
Contact the office for details. 726-5004

HI LITES OF MAY MEETING By Pat Brady

We started the evening with a delicious spaghetti dinner. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. Thanks also to everyone who purchased meals, helping our coffers.

First on the agenda was **Rol Steinhauser**, one of our newest Board Members who will be running the fishing clinics we are having for children this summer. Each clinic will have 40 to 45 children. They will be held at Wallace Brooks Park, June 28 and July 19 From 9:30 to 12:15. Volunteers are needed to help the kids fish.

Marco wanted to get two things done during his term as president: the 501(C)3 which is close to happening, and the fishing program for which this summer will be a trial run.

Mike Bartlett, Interim Structures Operation Manager, SWFWMD showed us a slide presentation on the Wysong.

Judging from the questions asked, there are still a lot of misconceptions about the structure. There were complaints from downstream that their water had been cut off. (Not so) and from people complaining that water isn't being allowed into the lakes (The lakes are higher than the river right now, so that is an impossibility)

Mr. Bartlett is open to anyone who needs help understanding the system and stop rumors. Do not hesitate to call him. (1 800 423 1476 extension 4515)

Mike also brought along his new boss **Mike Holtcamp**, who replaced **Gary Kuhl**. Mr Holtcamp was project manager for the Lake Panasoffkee dredging project.

Regarding letting more water into the lakes when the river comes up: This would depend on the quality of the water. If there is no dissolved oxygen in the water, it would kill the fish which are here now. Oxygen levels are done regularly on the river. SWFWMD is in touch with the Lakewatch program and they share information.

The Wysong has held Lake Panasoffkee at 40. ft even during the dredging. continued.....

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

Did you know you can have people from the **Citrus County Sheriffs Department** check your house regularly while you are away? For more information just call 746-3484 This is a **FREE** service.



LAKE LEVELS As of June 1, 2006

Structure:	Scheduled	Current
Floral City	41.53	39.44
Inverness	39.71	38.14
Hernando	38.30	36.80
Panasoffkee		38.59
Wysong Up Stream		38.20
Wysong Down Stream		36.13
Leslie Hefner Outside		38.49
Leslie Hefner Inside		39.44

Levels are in ft above sea level.
The Wysong structure is up.

EDITORS NOTE:

We have received a number of phone calls at the TOOFAR office wanting to know why SWFWMD isn't letting water into the lakes.

*The river, at the point where water could be let in, is a foot **lower** than the lakes.*

What we need is rain, and neither TOOFAR nor SWFWMD can provide it. You must appeal to a higher power.

Highlights: continued

Thanks to **Avis, Betty & Karen** for the goodies in the coffee room tonight.

Help is needed with the ad campaign, and with the coffee room, as well as someone to chair the Pig Roast Committee.

Joyce Valentino reminded us about the burning ban. Please, be careful!

Adjourn.

VOLUNTEER—VOLUNTEER—VOLUNTEER

KIDS FISHING CLINICS

TOOFAR is partnering with the City of Inverness to offer a kid's Fishing clinic to participants from the Citrus County Parks Summer Camp Program.

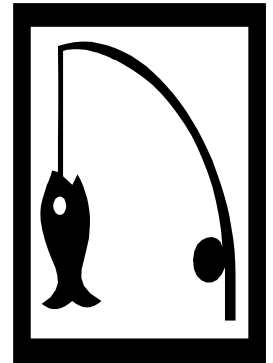
TOOFAR & Rol Steinhauser will conduct the clinics and provide the equipment for the kids to fish from Wallace Brooks Park Pier.

The Clinics will be June 28 & July 17 at 9:30 am at Wallace Brooks Park.

Citrus County Parks & Rec staff will be on hand, but we would like

Volunteers from TOOFAR to help supervise also. It could be great fun!

Come help a kid learn to fish. Call the office for more info. 726 5004



ADS COMMITTEE 2006-07 BEING FORMED

What does this mean?

Committee members send letters to all current advertisers about renewing their ads, and making changes if needed. All names, addresses, postage, etc.. Will be provided by the TOOFAR office.

Find additional advertisers, if necessary, to complete ad section of the newsletter.

You do not have to do the computer graphics part. Just collect the ads, the checks etc..

There might be a few phone calls or additional letters involved. Nothing too difficult.

For more information, or to volunteer for this committee, call the office 726-5004

This needs to be done in July & August, to go to the printer in September, and be mailed with our October newsletter.

COFFEE ROOM HELP AT MEETINGS

What does this mean?

Once a month we have a general meeting. We serve coffee and goodies from the kitchen.

The TOOFAR office supplies all the coffee, pots, creamer, sugar, sweetener, cups, plates forks, spoons, napkins etc....

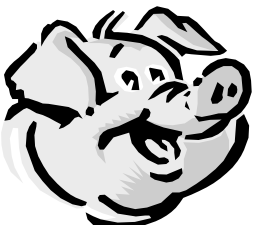
Volunteers donate the cakes or cookies or whatever to go with the coffee. These can be home made or bought. And they serve it.

That can add up to a lot of desserts. Get together with another member and do it together.

Volunteers are needed for September 28, November 16 and December 21.

Can you do it just once?
Call the office to volunteer.
726-5004

HERITAGE DAYS



We need a chairperson for the Heritage Days Committee. This is our annual Pig Roast, held the first Saturday of December in conjunction with Floral City Heritage Days. We have lots of experienced people who work on it every year.

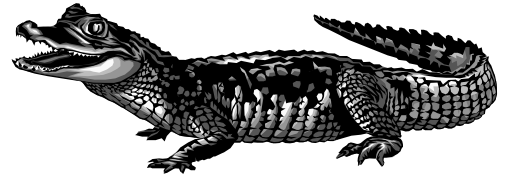
But, we need someone to take charge of organizing the event.

Call Mary at the office for more information. 726 5004

ALLIGATOR HUNTING CLASSES

Alligators have been in the news a lot lately.

The FWC is offering **free alligator hunting classes** for novice hunters. Alligator season has been extended this year and will run from Aug. 15 to Nov. 1. Sale of permits begins 10am, June 15. More than 4000 permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Cost for residents of Florida \$272.00 For more info go to MyFWC.com/gators



Editors note: I'll bet you can't get these classes in "up north".

More about gators:

This being **alligator mating season**, more of them are on the move and showing up in strange places. If you have problems with alligators you may report them to FWC at 866-392-4286

PET FOOD PROGRAM

Thanks to TOOFAR members, there are a lot of happy pets with full tummies. The food we provide is sent out with Meals on Wheels. You are doing a **GREAT** job. Thanks.



Giant Pot Hole Swallows Driveway! Maybe it wasn't quite that bad, but the pot hole in the driveway really was pretty terrible!! Thanks to **Paul Agius** for fixing it for us!

GOT SHIRTS?

We now have shirts available in more sizes. Lots of large and Xtra large Tees and polos.

TOOFAR Cookbooks Now only \$6.00

Lake maps \$4.00 River

Please Recycle!

Bring your newspapers, and your neighbors newspapers to the bin at the TOOFAR office to be recycled. SP Recycling **pays** us for the old newspapers!

Bring your aluminum cans to the office To be recycled. Just leave them on the front porch and **Pat Brady** will pick them up and take them to be recycled. We actually get paid for the cans also. You will be helping the environment and supporting TOOFAR too!

Please Recycle



Howard Stuckman has resigned as an alternate board member. He will be sadly missed. **Howard and Nancy** are Life members of TOOFAR and have worked very, very hard for this organization for many years.

Mary Agius will be leaving her position as office manager at the end of June. **Mary and Paul** are also Life members. They plan to spend more time traveling.

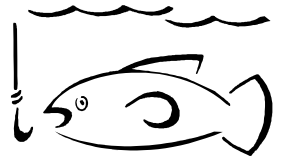
*Editors note: Both the **Agius**' and the **Stuckmans** will still be members and plan to continue to support the organization. We are not "losing" them.*

SNOWBIRDS

Be sure to give your "away" address to the office so we can send you your newsletters.

THE CATCHING REPORT

By Jerry Schneider



Hello Fellow Fishermen,

I hope these words find you healthy and happy. As I take pen in hand the date is May 29, 2006, Memorial Day (observed). This is the day to show our appreciation to those in our armed forces, past and present, who are put in harms way to protect the freedoms which we as Americans enjoy. I salute them.

On the Salt:

Captain Rick Burns, owner of Reel Burns Charter, and President of the Floral City Anglers Association, reports good catches of trout in 5' - 8' of water on Cajun rigs. The spoil banks out of Inglis are also producing trout in good numbers. Rick said not to be surprised if you hook up with a pompano while targeting trout.

The big schools of king mackerel I reported south of us last month haven't arrived yet. Good weather with it's moderate winds and tides has really helped the red fish bite. Artificial baits combined with an incoming tide should put the reds in your boat.

When asked about Tarpon, Captain Rick says the migrating pods are still south of us, but not to give up hope. A few resident tarpon are being caught in the river but not in numbers to make them a target fish.

Getting Fresh:

The moderate weather appears to be helping the fresh water fishing also. Yours truly, fishing at the East Cove boat ramp, landed a bass weighing just under 5 lbs. I was using a black "devil horse" with white stripes just about dark thirty.

At the last TOOFAR meeting, **Rob Schmidt** told me the Hernando pool is looking real fishy. On one trip late in May he landed two fish weighing 5 and 4 lbs, and several smaller ones in a very short period of time.

Greg and June Schmukal entered a "Fishers of Men" tourney on the Harris chain, not one of his favorite places to fish. They brought one 4 1/2 lb fish to the scales after losing several good fish that would have really helped their finish.

Al Grubman says he is doing fair on Henderson but not getting out as often as he would like.

This is about all there is for this month. Keep an eye on the Chronicle for Captain Rick Burns' Saltwater Fishing seminar at the Parks and Recreation center. Rick says it's show and tell, how and where. I wish you blue skies and tight lines. Remember our troops. **Jerry**'s gone fishin'.

Fish Camp Philosophy:

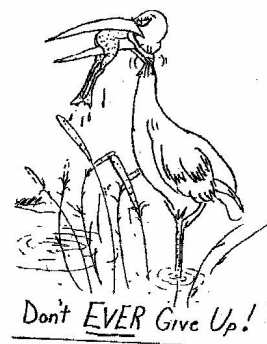
"Beyond all question there is no sphere of human activity so full of strange and wonderful incidents as fishing" **Grover Cleveland**

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IN THIS ISSUE

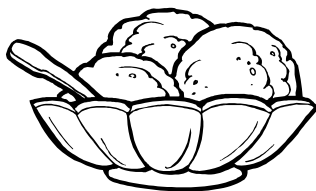
Meeting Notices
President's Message
"Catching Report" by Jerry Schneider
Kids Fishing Clinics Set
Hilites of May Meeting
Boat Trips cancelled till fall
Help Wanted



NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - June 22nd
7pm at the East Citrus Community Center
UPDATES UPDATES UPDATES

This will be an evening of updates on issues discussed during the past year. **No speaker.** Just, updates, Information, Questions & Answers and ICE CREAM too!

More about flows and levels, two mile prairie, the berm in Hernando etcccccc



I scream, You Scream, We all scream for
Root Beer Floats, Brownies a la mode, sundaes & just plain ***ice cream***. Get it while it lasts. No charge. (Donations gratefully accepted!) At the June 22nd meeting.

BOAT TRIPS

Boat trips have been cancelled due to low water and lack of participation, but members are discussing different locations for the fall trips. How about Chassahowitzka?